underneath surface features at Burhar mines without disturbing safety.

iv. Monitoring of behaviour of roof and support at two mechanised Longwall faces in Eastern coalfields resulting in increased production of coal.

v. Evolved a techique for draining out the methane gas from underground mines and storing it at the surface for domestic use. This was demonstrated at Sawang Colleiry.

vi. Conducted experiment at Jitpur Colliery proving that infusion of silicic acid gel can be an effective method for reducing spontaneous heating of coal.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) These techniques have been implemented and adopted by the respective collieries.

Vacant Post of Director in Mehta Research Institute of Mathematics, Allahabad

2751. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mehta Research Institute of Mathematics and Mathematical Physics, Allahabad has no Director at present;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the staff working in the Institute is not adequate and the research work done there is not of high quality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes Sir, the Institute has no Director at present.

(b) Efforts are being made to find a suitable person to head the Institute.

(c) The total number of scientific staff engaged in research work in the Institute is five. Even with this small team of researchers, the Institute has been active in many areas of mathematics, particularly combinatorics, graph theory, summability, operator theory and control theory.

Fire practice range of Bofors Gun in Sivalik Hills

2752. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the firing practice range for the Bofors Guns in the Sivalik Hills adjoining the Rajaji National Park at Dehradun has been opposed by the wild life experts;

(b) whether it is a fact that according to the international wild life rules human intrusion within a 10 Km radius of the national park boundaries is prohibited; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Sivalik Hills are ecologically fragile to stand the heavy pounding of the Howitzers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES